Arising therefrom, such bookstalls are not granted permission for selling other publications including newpapers and magazines, etc. except at stations where there is no other bookstall contractor. In view thereof M/s Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan has not been allowed sale of newspapers, magazines, etc. from their stalls.

Construction of an Overbridgc in Khammam, Andhra Pradesh

3462. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Railway gate located between Gandhi Chowk and Station Road in Khammam (Andhra Pradesh) remains always closed causing inconvenience to the public and very often causing accidents; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to construct an over-bridge at Central Railway Crossing at Khammam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The level crossing which is situated in the yard has to be closed for longer periods for operational reasons with consequent delay to road users. Accidents do not normally occur on closed level crossings.

(b) No proposal has been sponsored by the State Government/Local Authority for construction of overbridge at this location. As per rules, Railways consider replacement of a level crossing by an overbridge if the proposal is sponsored by the State Government/Local body consenting to bear their share of cost.

Book Stall Contracts

3463. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Book Stall Contract (including Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan) agreements are executed/renewed only for a period of five years;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the agreement of A.H. Wheeler & Co. is extended for a period of nine years since 1967; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In 1967, it was decided to delete the clause of "Automatic renewal" from the agreements of M/s A.H. Wheeler and Co. but to extend their period of agreements from 5 years to 9 years at a time.

मनमाड-जालना रेल मार्ग पर दूसरी एलोरा लिंक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी का चलाया जाना

3464. डा॰ बापू कालदाते: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार मनमाड-जालना रेल मार्ग पर दूसरी एलोरा लिंक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी चलाने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) जी नहीं;

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता;

(ग) जालना और औरंगाबाद के बीच चल रहे आमान परिवर्तन कार्य के कारण?

Representations for Second Overbridge at Solapur on Solapur-Wadi Section

3465. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations with regard to taking up of second overbridge at Solapur on Solapur-Wadi section in view of the

growing railway service and the need for such an overbridge;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to start construction work; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether it would be included in the next Annual Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A proposal for replacement of level crossing No. 55 by a Road overbridge was received from Municipal Corporation of Solapur but the proposed bridge was found prohibitively costly. Two alternative proposals were framed after joint inspection with local officials. Municipal Corporation has not conveyed their decision so far.

Sanctioning of an Overbridge on Solapur-Hubli Section

3466. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has considered to sanction an overbridge in place of the present railway level crossing on Solapur-Hubli section in South Central Railway and whether the required survey has been undertaken;

(b) if so, by when the construction is likely to be taken up and by what date it is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A proposal for constructing Road overbridge in replacement of level crossing No. 55-B on B.G. line of Central Railway and corresponding M.G. level crossing was considered in response to Municipal Corporation, Solapur's request for an overbridge at this location but found too costly. After joint inspection of site by the Railway and Local officials two alternative proposals were framed. Municipal Corporation has not conveyed their decision.

Decreasing the retirement age of railway engine driver

3467. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research Designs and Standard Organisation (R.D.S.O.) of Railways has recommended to decrease the retirement age of Railway Engine drivers to arrest railway accidents; and

(b) if so, what *is* the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The Traffic Standards Directorate of Research Designs and Standard Organisation have in their report on "Recruitment and Training of Engine Crew to improve their Operational Efficiency and Safety" submitted in February, 1989 *inter-alia* recommended that drivers should be ordinarily retired at the age of 55 years from footplate duties. Subsequently, R.D.S.O. indicated that a study has been taken up which will have a bearing on the retention of drivers on footplate duties beyond the age of 55 years. Decision will depend on the recommendation of R.D.S.O.

Grievances of Railway Pensioners of Asansol

3468. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway pensioners of Asansol have sent several representations to the authorities for redressal of the grievances; and

(b) if so, what are the details of their grievances and what actions have been taken for redressal?